AMENDED CLAIMS

CLAIMS

1.   (Amended) A data processing method of an image processing system in which a server apparatus and a data processing apparatus communicate with each

5   other to perform a predetermined data process, comprising:

a storing step of storing an electronic data in the data processing apparatus;

a first extraction step of extracting a feature

10   information of the electronic data to be output to a printer apparatus stored in the data processing apparatus;

a first transmission step of transmitting original specifying information including the feature

15   information extracted in said first extraction step and a user ID for discriminating a print requester of the electronic data but not transmitting the electronic data stored in the data processing apparatus, to the server apparatus;

20   a control step of controlling generation of print data to be output to the printer apparatus, on the basis of original certification information notified by the server apparatus and the electronic data stored in the data processing apparatus; and

25   a print step of causing the printer apparatus to print the print data generated in said control step and information indicating that the print data

corresponds to an original.

2. (Amended) A data processing method according
to Claim 1, further comprising:

5   a second extraction step of extracting
additional information included in an original
certification print image to be output to the printer
apparatus based on the print data generated in said
control step;

10   a second transmission step of transmitting to
the server apparatus update information including the
additional information extracted in said second
extraction step, a new feature information extracted
from new electronic data in said first extraction

15   step, the feature information and the user ID;

an administration step of receiving the
original specifying information transmitted from the
data processing apparatus, registering the received
information in a storage unit, and administrating the

20   registered information;

an update step of updating the content of the
original specifying information, by verifying the
update information transmitted from the data
processing apparatus and the original specifying

25   information; and

a notification step of, when original
certification printing is requested by the data

processing apparatus, notifying the data processing apparatus of the original certification information to be added to the electronic data, by referring the original specifying information transmitted from the data processing apparatus and the original specifying information registered in the storage unit.

3. (Unchanged) A data processing method according to Claim 2, wherein said administration step performs file administration of the original specifying information and administration information of the original specifying information.

4. (Unchanged) A data processing method according to Claim 2, wherein said update step updates administration information stored in the storage unit.

5. (Unchanged) A data processing method according to Claim 4, wherein the administration information includes a registration number, a registration date, version information, an update history and a confirmation history for administrating the original specifying information.

6. (Amended) A data processing method according to Claim 2, wherein said update step updates any one

of a registered registration date, a feature information, version information, and an update history included in the information stored in the storage unit.

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7. (Unchanged) A data processing method according to Claim 2, further comprising:

a confirmation step of, when original confirmation is requested by the data processing apparatus, confirming originality of the original specifying information by referring the original specifying information transmitted from the data processing apparatus and the original specifying information registered in the storage unit; and

a confirmation notification step of notifying the data processing apparatus of a confirmation result in said confirmation step.

8. (Amended) A data processing method according to Claim 2, wherein the storage unit stores, as administration information, information specifying a date when the feature information is recorded.

9. (Amended) A data processing method according to Claim 1, wherein said control step adds the feature information to the print data as a digital watermark.

10. (Unchanged) A data processing method according to Claim 1, wherein said control step adds area information, for inputting signature information, to the print data.

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11. (Unchanged) A data processing method according to Claim 10, further comprising a step of extracting a signature image drawn in the area information added in said control step, and

10 transmitting the extracted signature image to the server apparatus.

12. (Unchanged) A data processing method according to Claim 1, further comprising a step of,

15 when reprinting is requested by the data processing apparatus, notifying the data processing apparatus of administration information to be added to the electronic data, by referring the original specifying information transmitted from the data processing

20 apparatus and the original specifying information registered in the storage unit.

13. (Unchanged) A data processing method according to Claim 12, further comprising a

25 confirmation step of, when the reprinting is requested by the data processing apparatus, confirming determination as to whether or not to

perform the printing by referring restriction information.

14. (Unchanged) A data processing method according to Claim 13, wherein the restriction information indicates the maximum number of printing of the electronic data or an upper limit value of the number of printing of the electronic data.

15. (Unchanged) A data processing method according to Claim 13, wherein the restriction information is original specifying information for specifying a user other than registered users who can print the electronic data.

16. (Unchanged) A data processing method according to Claim 13, wherein the restriction information indicates a date or a time when the electronic data can be printed.